

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, after the title please insert the following paragraph:

Benefit of the International Filing Dated of September 26, 2003 of PCT/EP2003/010735 and benefit of the September 27, 2002 filing date of DE 102 45 300.4, both by the same inventors and both entitled "Coating Method and Coated Element" are claimed.

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 20-31, and continued on page 2, line 1, with the following paragraph:

In DE ~~195 22 371~~ 195 22 372 it is proposed for the applying of a diamond layer to a hard metal substrate a first Co-selective etching step with subsequent cleaning of the etched substrate surface and then a WC-selective etching step with subsequent cleaning. To the hard metal substrate pre-treated in this manner is applied a diamond layer by means of a CVD process.